Dear Bill:

Thanks much for your letter which helped clear up some of the more obvious questions. It's one thing to read (andwrite) a paper from the point of view of the principles, and another to try to repeat experiments in detail, when the silliest deviations can throw you off.
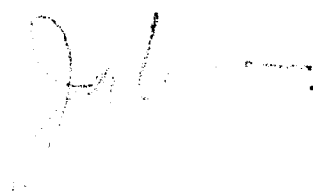
I am really very glad that we can probably say now that the discrepancies are straightened out. It looks as if we were both right, that is that Az^r is 'semi-dominant' in diploids. (That means the same is 'semi-recessive', or more accurately, neither dominant nor recessive, as these are precisely defined.) When tested on EMB agar + M/500 azide, the diploids are unquestionably sensitive. However, we have just done one run now on M/1600 in T-minimal, and here the heterozygotes came up quite well, with the discrimination you found between the Az^r and Az^s parents. (In this case the medium was supplemented with the specific growth factors.) We will have to repeat this a couple of times, and we are setting up some gradient plates for a better comparison of resistance levels; we'll let you know how that comes out in case you want a statement that you could quote.

There is still some danger of the effect postulated in my 'criticism' but leaving that aside, there ought to be some good use of the prompt dominance of Az^r in kinetic experiments, especially for comparisons of the 'time of entry' as compared to the time-dependent frequency of incorporation. Have you any information on bacteriostatic versus bacteriostatic effects? I'm not planning now to go into this, but hope you are!

We're off to Australia (c/o Rubbo, Melbourne) about August 1-Nov. 15. Contrary to some earlier speculations, we're coming back directly, not through India and Europe. However, we have further plans, well advanced, to attend the Stockholm Congress in August '58, and count on seeing you there and perhaps at London as well. But this will partly depend on the usually considerations of pounds, shillings and cents.

Have a particularly good time & don't answer this till you darn well feel like it.

Yours,